

IN SUPPORT OF THE REPUBLICAN
LIBERTY CAUCUS**HON. KERRY L. BENTIVOLIO**

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 22, 2013

Mr. BENTIVOLIO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of the Republican Liberty Caucus who like so many grass-root organizations throughout our country have diligently educated our citizens on various public issues facing us today. Exercising their Constitutional right to peacefully assemble and in many cases petition their government for a redress of grievances in support of the restoration of liberty, not in restricting it; shrinking our bloated government, not expanding it; who want to reduce taxes, not raise them; abolish costly government programs, not create them; expose the abuses and oppressions of tyrannical dictators; the Republican Liberty Caucus promotes the freedom and independence of our citizens, not the interference of government in their lives; and observe the limited, enumerated powers of our Constitution, not ignore them.

Mr. Speaker, these truly American patriots of every cultural, religious and ethnic background have found a common cause in fighting back today's proliferating big government rules and regulations imposed by costly bloated government bureaucracies who are accountable to no one at the expense of individual rights.

They are God-fearing, freedom-loving Americans who desire nothing more than to rein in big government's tendency toward excessive coercion and the insidious spread of government overreach. They question when the validity of laws and morality contradict each other. They desire nothing more than the extension of individual freedom in a Constitutional Republic that attaches all possible value to citizens rather than making each citizen a mere agent, a mere number of the state; a Constitutional Republic that seeks equality in Liberty rather than in restraint and servitude.

Mr. Speaker, there is a great political awakening taking place in our country today. The roots of which are solid stock and American made, they are a visionary group of individuals who understand the moral foundations of a Constitutional Republic, the benefits of free markets, and the Blessings of individual liberty. May they continue to strive valiantly and dare greatly.

Mr. Speaker, thank you for allowing me a few short minutes to give this testimony in support of the Republican Liberty Caucus, a truly American grass-roots organization.

RECOGNIZING OF ONE ACCORD
MINISTRY**HON. DAVID P. ROE**

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 22, 2013

Mr. ROE of Tennessee. Mr. Speaker, I submit these remarks today to commend Of One Accord Ministry of Hawkins and Hancock Counties for their 25 years of service to East Tennessee.

Of One Accord Ministry began humbly in 1988 in the home of Sheldon Livesay, founder

and director of the organization. Livesay's desire to give back to the people of East Tennessee led to the creation of this organization, which began with the aim of meeting the needs of low-income families in the First District of Tennessee and has since expanded to include a free medical clinic, a drug recovery program, and several international humanitarian missions.

This year marks the 25th year of operation for Of One Accord Ministry. In its time, this organization has served over 833,000 East Tennesseans with the distribution of approximately 11 million pounds of food, 21,600 winter coats, and 900 pairs of eyeglasses. In addition, Of One Accord Ministry has served countless others internationally with over 1 million meals around the globe.

Of One Accord Ministry has dedicated itself to improving the lives of low-income families in both Appalachia and around the world and I sincerely thank them for all that they do for the Volunteer State.

OUR UNCONSCIONABLE NATIONAL
DEBT**HON. MIKE COFFMAN**

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 22, 2013

Mr. COFFMAN. Mr. Speaker, on January 20, 2009, the day President Obama took office, the national debt was \$10,626,877,048,913.08.

Today, it is \$17,075,230,597,788.39. We've added \$6,448,353,548,875.31 to our debt in 4 years. This is \$6.4 trillion in debt our nation, our economy, and our children could have avoided with a balanced budget amendment.

RECOGNIZING DARIUS ASSEMI

HON. JIM COSTA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 22, 2013

Mr. COSTA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Darius Assemi as he is honored with the Fresno State Alumni Association's Top Dog Distinguished Alumnus Award. Darius is well deserving of this award as he has contributed so much to the City of Fresno and our entire Central Valley.

Darius immigrated to the United States from Iran almost 40 years ago. He graduated with honors from California State University, Fresno in 1983 with a degree in Civil Engineering. After graduation, he served as vice president of Granville Homes up until 2009 when he became president. Granville Homes is a local business that is family-owned and operated.

Fresno has benefitted in so many ways from the efforts made by Darius. Granville's developments are spread throughout the city. They provide housing to individuals of all ages, ethnicities, and socio-economic backgrounds. For over 30 years, Darius has stood behind Granville's mission "to improve the well-being of people in our community" and promote "positive change in the lives of people in the Central Valley." For the past eight years, Darius has hosted a "Home of Hope" fundraiser. Participants buy one hundred dollar raf-

file tickets with the possibility of winning a new home. All of the proceeds from the raffle tickets are donated to local non-profits around the Central Valley. Since 2006, over 2.4 million dollars has been raised. The donations provide shelter, healthcare, education, and food to thousands of individuals.

Darius plays a big role in the city's effort to revitalize downtown Fresno. Granville has completed four housing projects downtown, and two more projects are in the works. As a result, over 500 individuals have moved to the area. Residents are making contributions to downtown Fresno that will have a lasting impact on the city's entire economy.

In addition to his work at Granville Homes, Darius is the chair of American Medical Overseas Relief (AMOR). AMOR is a non-profit organization that is improving the health of thousands of women and children in Afghanistan. In 2009, the Afshar Hospital in Kabul, Afghanistan was built due to funding from AMOR. The 100 bed hospital serves more than 3,500 patients a month.

Darius also sits on several other boards including the California Transportation Commission, the California Health Sciences University, the Islamic Cultural Center of Fresno, and the Fresno Chamber of Commerce.

Mr. Speaker, it is with great respect that I ask my colleagues in the House of Representatives to recognize Darius Assemi for his commitment to ensuring that the City of Fresno continues to prosper and thrive.

CALLING FOR JUSTICE FOR THE
BYTYQI BROTHERS**HON. TIMOTHY H. BISHOP**

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 22, 2013

Mr. BISHOP of New York. Mr. Speaker, today I am introducing a concurrent resolution calling upon the government of Serbia to bring to justice those responsible for the murders of Ylli, Agron and Mehmet Bytyqi in July 1999. The resolution also calls on our government to do what it can to encourage and assist a successful prosecution of the case. I want to thank my fellow colleague from New York, Mr. Grimm, for co-sponsoring this resolution.

The three Bytyqi brothers were American citizens. Their ethnic Albanian family emigrated to the United States from Kosovo, and some family members reside in my district on Long Island. During the Kosovo conflict which prompted the NATO air campaign against Serbia, the brothers traveled to the region to fight. Remaining in Kosovo after a cease fire agreement ended the conflict, the three young men escorted an ethnic Romani neighbor and his family from Kosovo to Serbian controlled territory, where they would be safer. Accidentally straying across the border, they were detained by police in southern Serbia and then sentenced for illegally entering the country. When released from prison, they were not set free but taken to a Ministry of Interior special forces training camp where they were executed and buried in a mass grave with the bodies of dozens of ethnic Albanians from Kosovo.

To be clear, the Bytyqi brothers were not sentenced for any crime other than illegal entry. They were not afforded an opportunity